Seatbelts save life of JSC's Quality director

By Rindy Carmichael

After being involved in a head-on collision on NASA Road 1 in Webster, Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Director Charlie Harlan describes seatbelts as an "elegant" element of the automobile.

"A seatbelt saved me from very serious injury or even worse, in an accident a few years ago," Harlan said. "Fortunately for me, I have always believed in seatbelts and make a habit of checking that my seatbelt is properly secured and cinched down tight. This incident proved to me the seatbelt's value."

Harlan remembers driving his full-sized van east on NASA Road 1 on a Saturday afternoon, traveling with the flow of traffic at about 35 mph. "I was struck head-on by a full-sized pickup truck. The truck had been hit by another car, forcing it into my lane. I had no time to stop or move out of the way. I estimated the truck to be going the same speed as I was—it was like hitting a brick wall at 70 mph. I had a good firm grip, with both hands, on the steering wheel. The force from my body's impact bent the steering wheel and broke my watch band; my glasses flew off and I broke my nose—but I was still fastened securely to the seat."

Harlan describes the driver of the pickup truck as being surprised. "He had a young boy with him. Both were buckled up tight and neither one suffered an injury." The man apologized for hitting me and told me if we hadn't been wearing our seatbelts, we would have gone through the windshield. I agreed.

"Both cars were totaled, but I suffered relatively minor injuries for that serious of a crash," continued Harlan. "That's the payoff for being diligent every time you get in the car. You can't determine when you'll be involved in an accident. Everything can change in a fraction of a second, with no control over the incident."

Harlan emphasizes that motorists should fasten their seatbelts securely in place, both chest and lap belts, and keep them in good shape. The payoff for such a simple procedure can be a life.

"An automobile's seatbelt is one of the most elegant safety controls ever devised by mankind," Harlan concluded. "There is no doubt of their effect in reducing or preventing injury in a serious vehicle crash. They are very inexpensive for what you get in return."

To learn more about seatbelt safety, employees are invited to visit the Motor Vehicle Safety Exhibition from noon-3:00 p.m. Wednesday in Teague Auditorium. The Pasadena Police Department's "Convincer" which simulates a crash at seven mph will be on hand as well as information on motorcycle, child restraint and on-site traffic safety. Trooper Steve Hargett, 1995 Safety Awareness Day speaker, will talk at 1:30 and Precinct 8 Constable's Office will provide their static DWI exhibit. For more information on the program, contact Rindy Carmichael at x45078.

Memorial set up for Lunde

The May 17 issue of the Space News Roundup included a photo that was incorrectly identified as Al Lunde of the Mission Operations Directorate's Flight Design and Dynamics Division.

Lunde died May 9, from apparent complications of heart disease. Lunde, who came to the U.S. from Norway in 1957, joined NASA in 1966 in the Mission Planning and Analysis Branch. He worked on all of the human space flight programs from Gemini through the International Space Station, developing mission support requirements and development. His most recent work was in mitigating the effects of orbital debris. A memorial has been established in his name with the American Heart Association.

Lunde

JSC Photo By Mark Sowa

CINCO DE MAYO—Edison Middle School "Mariachis" entertain JSC employees during a Cinco de Mayo celebration this month in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria.

Science fiction, fact symposium set for next week

JSC employees are invited to a science fiction and science fact symposium to be held from 12.30-2 p.m. next Friday in Teague Auditorium.

The symposium sponsored by Author Services Inc. is the finale for a week-long workshop for winners of the "L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future" contest.

The symposium's focus is on humans living and working in space and will feature science fiction writers and JSC employees.

Panelists include writers Jerry Pournelle, Frederick Pohl, Larry Niven and Algis Budrys, and Yogi Kondo of Goddard Spaceflight Center. JSC panelists include Astronaut Janice Voss, Kyle Fairchild of the Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office and Don Henninger of the Crew and Thermal Systems Division.

Employees are invited to attend as workloads permit. For more information, call Juanie Campbell at x38613.

Astronauts to be honored with trees Thursday

JSC will honor astronauts who have died with a tree planting ceremony at 11 a.m. Thursday.

The trees will be planted adjacent to Bldg. 111 on Fifth Street. Seven trees were planted in January during the *Challenger* memorial in honor of the STS-51L crew members.

The families of these astronauts, former astronauts and JSC employees are invited to attend the ceremony. There will be a brief dedication followed by a ceremonial planting of the trees by JSC Director George Abbey, Associate Director John Young and astronaut family members.

Volunteers, exhibits still needed for American Heritage Day activities

Volunteers are still needed for JSC's American Heritage Day celebration set for June 10-14.

This year's theme, "A Patchwork of Cultures and Diversity," will be highlighted daily with entertainment, exhibits and displays in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria. The grand finale of the week's activities will be at 3 p.m. June 14, with a variety of performers and food vendors representing many ethnic cultures.

In order to accomplish this event, volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. Volunteers are needed to serve on the planning subcommittees, as well as to participate in the activities including food pick-up from local eateries, food servers, "town criers" to help announce daily events, greeters and clean-up. Employees interested in helping in any of these areas can call Bridget Broussard-Guidry at x34834.

In addition, employee exhibits and displays are needed. These exhibits are to depict employees' cultural diversity of hobbies, creations collections and other interests. Employees interested in exhibits can call Elaine Kemp at x30556.

New exhibits to highlight open house

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in both cafeterias.

New exhibits and demonstrations will include an Apollo service module oxygen tank like the one which ruptured during Apollo 13, a "closed-loop" life support test bed and hourly demonstrations of both U.S. and Russian space suits.

More hands-on activities are also planned. Visitors will have the opportunity to try their hands at either landing the shuttle or docking it to the International Space Station in the Bldg. 16 system simulators. In Bldg. 9, besides getting a look at the shuttle and space station mockups, they will have the opportunity to try out the Air-Bearing Floor.

At Ellington, four NASA planes will be on display—a T-38, WB-57F, the Shuttle Training Aircraft and the KC-135. The T-38 ground egress trainer will also be available for family photo opportunities.

"Hosting an open house of this size requires a lot of work," Fluegel said. "Fortunately, we have an enthusiastic group of people doing the job."

Open House committee members are Debbie Denton-Misfeldt, AH; Teresa Sullivan, AH12; John Cools, AI; Lupita Armendariz, AJ; Billie Deason, AP; Brenda Sturman and Dale Martin, PA; Margie Keller, Larry Neu and Mary Lee Meider, CA; Tom Diegelman, DA/TA; Al Behrend, EA; Sandy Griffin, HA; Ginger Gibson, JA; Cathey Lamb, LA; Kitty Rogers, MA; Jeff Evans, NA; Renee' Julian, OA; Rachel Windham, SA; Mary Chesler, XA; and Lindy Fortenberry, YA.

Volunteers from all organizations will be needed to work exhibits as well as assist and provide information to visitors around the center. Those interested in helping should contact Sandy Griffin at x31056.

"We heard from many of the volunteers last year who received extremely positive feedback from the Open House visitors," Fluegel said. "I think everyone who helped last year went home with a good feeling about working here. The community is really behind JSC and the space program."

Columbia rolls to pad Thursday for June launch

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used less propellant than expected and mission managers were confident that there are enough consumables to support the full 10-day mission. Mission Specialist Marc Garneau used the robot arm to grapple Spartan Tuesday after a smooth rendezvous by Casper and Brown.

Throughout the mission work has continued in the Spacehab module. Nearly 3,000 pounds of experiments and equipment are supporting a variety of activities that will keep the crew busy during the mission which is scheduled to conclude Wednesday with a landing at Kennedy Space Center.

Meanwhile, work continues to ready *Columbia* for its late June mission on STS-78. The orbiter was transferred to the Vehicle Assembly Bldg. this week where it will be mated to its solid rocket boosters and external tank. After interface verification testing, *Columbia* will roll out to Launch Pad 39 B.

The STS-78 crew — Commander Tom Henricks, Pilot Kevin Kregel, Mission Specialists Susan Helms, Rich Linnehan and Charlie Brady, and Payload Specialists Jean-Jacques Favier, and Brent Thirsk — will head for Kennedy Space Center the first week of June for the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test. STS-78 is a two-week Life and Microgravity Spacelab mission scheduled to launch June 20.

Registration for on site courses soon

JSC employees may obtain registration information this month for graduate engineering courses to be held on-site and at University of Houston.

In cooperation with the Cullen School of Engineering at the University of Houston, JSC will again be offering a graduate engineering course on-site via satellite for the Fall 1996 term. As a convenience to JSC employees and contractors, information regarding registration for UH engineering courses will be held from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. July 1 in the lobby of Bldg. 45.

Registration forms for UH are available in the Human Resources Development Branch, Bldg. 45, Rm. 146. JSC employees may submit a completed Form 75 as payment for their engineering courses. Contractor employees will receive an invoice from UH. A representative from UH Cullen College of Engineering will be on hand to advise students for all engineering classes and accept applications from new students.

All applicants for admissions and all new students must bring their undergraduate transcript with the degree posted and a $25 non-refundable application fee. All new students should keep in mind that only six hours taken as a post-baccalaureate student may be transferred to graduate credit.

Employees can register for all engineering courses through the voice information processing system and are billed directly. Civil servants can return their approved JSC Form 75 as payment. A complete summer and fall schedule is available Bldg. 45, Room 146.

The Human Resources Development Branch will offer UH Cullen College of Engineering graduate courses on-site via satellite and at UHCL with UH professors. Summer classes include Logistics Engineering I and Occupational Safety Engineering.

Fall classes include Computer Networks; Advanced Microprocessor Systems; Computer Design and Architecture; Statistical Decision Analysis and Design; and Computer-Aided Manufacturing.

One summer class—Forecasting Applications in Engineering Planning—will be available at the University of Houston Clear Lake. Fall classes that will be offered at UHCL are Operations Research: Digital Simulation; Industrial Ergonomics; Mechanics of Composites; and Conduction/Radiation.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Kazuko Hall at x33075.

STS-81 crew trains in Russia

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Isolation Mount, a platform developed by the Canadian Space Agency to isolate various experiments from the perturbations that occur on-board the station. It is important to many of the science experiments such as crystal growth to have a good microgravity environment.

"We do have a good microgravity environment here but there are a lot of changes to it at various times due to crew activities and thruster firings, etc.," Lucid said.

This facility can isolate an experiment from external forces, or generate controlled forces for broader and cleaner experiment results.

With the hectic schedule of space research being conducted on Mir, there has been little time for the crew to become bored. Lucid spends any available free time observing the Earth. She says that she misses her family and friends back home, but she knows that when she returns she will also miss being on-board the Mir.

When asked by a German news reporter what she planned to do when her mission was completed Lucid said. "When I get back to Earth, I'm going to go into my house. I'm going to sit in a big chair. I'm just going to listen to everyone tell me what they've been doing for the past so many months I've been gone." Lucid is scheduled to be replaced in early August by astronaut John Blaha, ending a more than 140-day stay in space.

Today marks 62 days in orbit for Lucid and 91 for Onufrienko and Usachev.

Meanwhile, at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia, the STS-81 astronauts arrived for four days of training with Blaha and backup Jerry Linenger. The crew attended classes on construction and components of Mir and the life support and communication systems of the Russian outpost. They crew also talked with their Mir 22 counterparts about docking and transfer procedures.

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